

**Academic Affairs Board
Innis College Council
Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 2 pm
Innis College, Room 310, East Wing**

Minutes

Present: Shauna Brail, James Cahill, Jannie Chien, Lauren Cramer, Didier Ha, Kate Johnson, Charlie Keil, Tony Pi, Tara Suri (designate of Alexandra Hu), Bart Testa, Ben Weststrate (secretary), Andrew Zhao

Regrets: Donald Boere, Mira Chow, Sharon English, Angelica Fenner, Daria Mancino, Mukti Patel, Nancy Zhao

1. ELECTION OF MODERATOR & SECRETARY

A motion to elect Weststrate as secretary was moved (Brail), seconded (Chien), and carried.

A motion to elect Chien as moderator was moved (Keil), seconded (Johnson), and carried.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 12, 2018

A motion to approve [the minutes of the previous meeting](#) was moved (Testa), seconded (Zhao), and carried.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None reported

4. PROGRAM REPORTS:

A. Cinema Studies Institute

Cahill reported the following:

- CSI is the process of creating two new courses: *Queer Cinema Media* at the 300-level, proposed by Scott Richmond in collaboration with the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies; and an FYF seminar course being developed by Bart Testa. These proposals will be assembled in time for the faculty governance approval deadline.
- There are two new faculty members: Assistant Professor Lauren Cramer and Sessional Instructor Liz Wijaya.

B. Urban Studies

Brail reported the following:

- A new courses, City Building Lab, is being co-taught by sessional instructors by Innis alumnus Kofi Hope and Zahra Ebrahim.
- Several new sessional instructors have been hired owing to David Robert's research and

study leave and Brail's commitment at the School of Cities. They are: economist Shalini Sharma, PhD student Kate Nelischer, and Laura Visan (previously at UTSC). Emily Paradis has returned, as has Aditi Mehta, assistant professor, teaching stream (CLTA).

- The Program is thrilled to welcome Jannie Chien as the new Innis College program coordinator. Work-study student Simran Bal will reprise the monthly Urban Studies Newsletter series this year.
- In September, the Program hosted a pizza lunch for students to meet with professors and discuss career planning. The Program will co-sponsor an event, titled "House Divided," featuring Chief Planner Gregg Lintern, and Innis and Urban Studies alumnus.
- Johnson added that there is a new liaison librarian for the Urban Studies Program, [Nich Worby](#), who specializes in Government Information and Statistics.

C. Innis One

On behalf of program director Sharon English, Chien reported the following:

- Innis One courses have robust enrolments this year.
- In mid-September we held our first event for Innis One students: a meet and greet reception in the Innis Café with students, instructors, and Principal Keil.

Pi observed that, because Arts & Science (A&S) asked Innis to offer an open enrolment to Innis One courses, more students are only enrolled in a single Innis One course, despite what the original intention for students to enrol in two.

Keil added that, if all goes to plan with the First-Year Foundations (FYF) pilot, eventually all incoming students will be mandated to take a seminar course. A&S's rationale for opening enrolment was in anticipation of this expected change. That is, more space needs to be made available in first-year seminars, and the two-course requirement would limit the overall availability.

Brail clarified that the goal of this change is less about creating a cohort among first-year student (as was the Innis One intent), and now more about giving access to all students to enrol in one.

D. Writing & Rhetoric

On behalf of program director Sharon English, Chien reported the following:

- Fall enrollment have been good – almost all courses are full. Winter is a little slower, but most courses are full.
- In partnership with CINSUU, the Program held an event in mid-September: a screening of "Dead Poets' Society" (i.e., film with a writing theme), with an audience discussion afterward led by English. The event was very well attended, and many stayed for the discussion.

Suri, CINSUU president, added that there were 127 attendees, and student feedback was very positive.

- The Program has partnered with the McLuhan Centre, OISE, the Centre for the Study of the United States and the Faculty of Information to host a second event on December 5: a talk by the political science scholar Jodi Dean, titled "Communism or Neofeudalism?" This talk is

the first in a jointly created annual series called the Franklin Lecture, to be held annually at Innis Town Hall.

[Click here for a complete report on Urban Studies, Writing & Rhetoric, and Innis One program and course enrolments \(as of October 7, 2019\).](#)

5. WRITING CENTRE REPORT

On behalf of Centre director Sharon English, Chien reported the following:

- Since opening the second week of September, the Centre has been extremely busy.
- This year we have switched to a new online booking system called WC Online. So far, the switch has been smooth for students and instructors. However, because of the new system's particular configurations, we are finding that the waiting lists have grown significantly this year. The WC Directors are strategizing together on whether we can address this through the software.

Keil elaborated on the rationale for the switch in booking systems. Woodsworth College, which had developed the original system and lent it to the other colleges, has switched to a new, external system. Keil speculated that the increase in wait times is likely because the new system makes it easier for students to join waitlists. He noted that expanding writing centre service—to minimize the need for waitlists—is complicated. The service is centrally funded, and expansion requires an appeal to the Provost's Office.

6. INNIS LIBRARY REPORT

Johnson reported the following:

- Extended hours have continued this year. She has observed increased use as the semester ramps up. This means that the building remains open over the weekend, enabling students to use the public spaces in the building as well.
- The library section of the website will be developed to better integrate program-specific content (e.g., research guides) rather than pointing to the central UTL site. Focus groups will be facilitated.
- There is an upcoming project to relocate some of the collection to the central storage facility at Downsview.
- The Library is supporting the FYF pilot—namely, instructional support to faculty, students.
- Last year, the library partnered with the Writing Centre on a citation workshop. This year, they are partnering with CINSSU and the Innis OSL and drawing upon the experience of upper-year students to offer a peer-mentorship component. January 2020 implementation is expected.
- A new UTL hire at the Faculty of Music library, Trevor Deck, who focuses on media acquisition—including film—will take primary responsibility for film title acquisitions. Physical titles remain at Media Commons, and requests are still made through that website.
- Student feedback, in the form of a focus group and online form, will be solicited for

furniture needs in the post-renovation Student Learning Centre (i.e., consolidated Library and Writing Centre space).

7. CALENDAR AMENDMENTS AND NEW COURSE PROPOSALS

A. Courses proposals and changes

Urban Studies may have minor changes, but those are not yet confirmed. If there are new courses, they will be offered in existing course shells—e.g., a Ryerson-U of T-York course embedded within City Hall. That would begin Fall 2020.

Keil reported an expected push from the University to increase experiential course offerings, which Urban Studies has been a trail-blazer in. Funding from the province to subsidize experiential learning courses is based on benchmarks specific to each institution (i.e., previous year's performance informs future targets).

Brail proposed that the future of experiential learning is not in one-to-one placement models, but capitalizing on existing relationships and integrating experiential learning into conventional classroom models.

B. Program Changes

None reported.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- **FYF Program update:** Originally conceived of as a one-year pilot, it will now be two years. A subcommittee has been setup for assessment and metrics, which includes Charlie and Donald Boere. A more fulsome report is expected at the next AAB meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Cahill), seconded (Johnson), and carried.